



SC14 Meeting Report

Annex 21: Proposed Objectives for the Salas y Gomez and Nazca Ridges area

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of the SPRFMO Salas y Gómez and Nazca Task Team is to assess and advise the Scientific Committee on the proposals for possible measures for the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges area (hereafter referred to as the 'area') and whether they are adequate to preserve marine biodiversity, vulnerable marine ecosystems, and ecosystem structure and function in the area, while ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources, consistent with the objectives of the SPRFMO Convention.

Objective 1 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation

To identify and assess whether any proposed measures would effectively maintain and enhance the biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, and ecological processes of the area, including:

- Protection of endemic species, populations, communities, and ecosystems.
- Maintaining ecosystem structure and function across pelagic, mesopelagic, and benthic zones.
- Protection of unique oceanographic and geomorphological features/processes found in the area that support productivity and biodiversity.
- Maintenance of scientifically validated ecological connectivity throughout the area.

Objective 2 - Conservation of fishery resources in the area

To identify and assess whether any proposed measures effectively maintain and enhance the productivity of fish stocks, and essential biological processes under an ecosystem approach to fisheries management within the area, including:

- Protection of important biological and ecological processes such as reproduction and recruitment that are important in the area.

Objective 3 - Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems

To determine whether any proposed measures prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), consistent with CMM 03 and the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, by:



- Avoiding excessive physical disturbance to seamounts which host deep-sea VME indicator taxa communities (e.g., deep-sea corals and sponges) which may result in significant adverse impacts.
- Incorporating precautionary protection for VMEs.
- Ensuring long-term persistence of slow-growing, fragile, and functionally important benthic species.

Objective 4 - Protection of Endangered and Threatened Species

To assess whether any proposed measures support the survival, recovery, and ecological function of threatened and endangered species, including:

- endangered, near threatened, or vulnerable species, for which the area has been scientifically documented as critical habitat (demonstrated functional ecological dependence).
- Protection of critical habitats those waters and substrates are necessary for spawning, breeding, or growth to maturity.

Objective 5 - Support the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and ecosystem protection

To evaluate whether any proposed measures are consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, ensuring that:

- Vulnerability to physical disturbance and slow recovery of benthic communities is appropriately addressed.
- Potential cumulative impacts from fishing, climate change, marine debris, and other cross-sectoral pressures are included.

Objective 6 - Compatibility and connectivity with National Conservation Measures

To assess whether the proposed measures ensure compatibility with national measures adopted by Chile and Peru in adjacent waters within their respective national jurisdictions, and do not undermine the effectiveness of existing conservation and management measures established by the aforementioned members, in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention.

Objective 7 – Sustainable Use

To ensure that utilisation of fishery resources within the area is done in a sustainable manner.